

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 827

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SIFTON.

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Pre-filed December 21, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 633, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to dyslexia.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

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Section A. Chapter 633, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new  
2 section, to be known as section 633.420, to read as follows:

**633.420. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "dyslexia"**  
2 **shall be defined as a disorder that is neurological in origin,**  
3 **characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition**  
4 **and poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a**  
5 **deficit in the phonological component of language, often unexpected in**  
6 **relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective**  
7 **classroom instruction, and of which secondary consequences may**  
8 **include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading**  
9 **experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background**  
10 **knowledge. Nothing in this definition shall require a student with**  
11 **dyslexia to obtain an individualized education program (IEP) unless**  
12 **the student has otherwise met the federal conditions necessary.**

13 **2. There is hereby created the "Legislative Task Force on**  
14 **Dyslexia". The joint committee on education shall provide technical**  
15 **and administrative support as required by the task force to fulfill its**  
16 **duties. The task force shall meet at least quarterly and may hold**  
17 **meetings by telephone or video conference. The task force shall advise**  
18 **and make recommendations to the governor, general assembly, and**  
19 **relevant state agencies regarding matters concerning individuals with**  
20 **dyslexia including education and other adult and adolescent services.**

21 **3. The task force shall be comprised of seventeen members**  
22 **consisting of the following:**

23           (1) Four members of the general assembly, with two members  
24 from the senate to be appointed by the president pro tempore and two  
25 members from the house of representatives to be appointed by the  
26 speaker of the house of representatives;

27           (2) The commissioner of education, or his or her designee;

28           (3) One representative from an institution of higher education  
29 located in this state with specialized expertise in dyslexia and reading  
30 instruction appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

31           (4) A representative from a state teachers association appointed  
32 by the president pro tempore of the senate;

33           (5) A representative from the International Dyslexia Association  
34 of Missouri appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

35           (6) A representative from Decoding Dyslexia of Missouri  
36 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;

37           (7) A representative from the Missouri Association of Elementary  
38 School Principals appointed by the speaker of the house of  
39 representatives;

40           (8) A representative from the Missouri Council of Administrators  
41 of Special Education appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
42 senate;

43           (9) A professional licensed in the state of Missouri with  
44 experience diagnosing dyslexia including, but not limited to, a licensed  
45 psychologist, school psychologist, or neuropsychologist appointed by  
46 the speaker of the house of representatives;

47           (10) A speech-language pathologist with training in an Orton-  
48 Gillingham remediation program recommended by the Missouri Speech-  
49 Language Hearing Association or a certified academic language  
50 therapist recommended by the Academic Language Therapists  
51 Association who is a resident of this state appointed by the president  
52 pro tempore of the senate;

53           (11) A representative from an independent private provider or  
54 nonprofit organization serving individuals with dyslexia appointed by  
55 the speaker of the house of representatives;

56           (12) An assistive technology specialist with expertise in  
57 accessible print materials and assistive technology used by individuals  
58 with dyslexia recommended by the Missouri assistive technology  
59 council appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;

60           **(13) One private citizen who has a child that has been diagnosed**  
61 **with dyslexia appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;**  
62 **and**

63           **(14) One private citizen who has been diagnosed with dyslexia**  
64 **appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.**

65           **4. A chairperson shall be selected by the members of the task**  
66 **force. Any vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner**  
67 **as the original appointment. Members shall serve on the task force**  
68 **without compensation.**

69           **5. The task force shall make recommendations for a statewide**  
70 **system for identification, intervention, and delivery of supports for**  
71 **students with dyslexia including the development of resource materials**  
72 **and professional development activities. These recommendations shall**  
73 **be included in a report to the governor and general assembly and shall**  
74 **include findings and proposed legislation and shall be made available**  
75 **no longer than twelve months from the task force's first meeting.**

76           **6. The recommendations and resource materials developed by**  
77 **the task force shall:**

78           **(1) Determine valid and reliable diagnostic assessments and**  
79 **protocols that can be used and the appropriate personnel to administer**  
80 **the assessments in order to identify children with dyslexia or the**  
81 **characteristics of dyslexia as part of an ongoing reading progress**  
82 **monitoring system in schools;**

83           **(2) Recommend a research-based instruction and intervention**  
84 **system including a list of approved dyslexia therapy programs, to**  
85 **address dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia for use by schools in**  
86 **multi-tiered systems of support, and for services as appropriate for**  
87 **special education eligible students;**

88           **(3) Develop and implement preservice and in-service professional**  
89 **development activities to address dyslexia identification and**  
90 **intervention, including utilization of accessible print materials and**  
91 **assistive technology, within degree programs such as education,**  
92 **reading, special education, speech-language pathology, and psychology;**

93           **(4) Review teacher certification and professional development**  
94 **requirements as they relate to the needs of students with dyslexia;**

95           **(5) Examine the barriers to accurate information on the**  
96 **prevalence of students with dyslexia across the state and recommend**

97 a process for accurate reporting of demographic data; and

98 (6) Study and evaluate current practices for diagnosing, treating,  
99 and educating children in this state and examine how current laws and  
100 regulations affect students with dyslexia in order to present  
101 recommendations to the governor and general assembly.

102 7. The task force shall hire or contract for hire specialist  
103 services to support the work of the task force as necessary with  
104 appropriations made by the general assembly for that purpose or from  
105 other available funding.

106 8. The task force authorized under this section shall  
107 automatically terminate on August 31, 2018, unless reauthorized by an  
108 act of the general assembly.

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Bill

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